

H.H Sri Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami calls on LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: His Holiness Sri Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami Ji of Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt on Tuesday met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to His Holiness for his significant contribution towards public welfare, and sought his blessings for the peace and prosperity of the people of J&K UT.

Earlier, Hasnain Masoodi, Member of Parliament also called on Lt Governor and discussed with him various matters pertaining to



HH Sri Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami calling on LG Manoj Sinha.

the development of Jammu Kashmir and welfare of people, among other issues.

He also gave suggestions on making the south campus of Kashmir University more vibrant by opening more avenues of research and development in various educational fields and taking the campus to new heights of excellence in research and academic activities.

The Lt Governor assured the Member of Parliament that his valuable insights and suggestions on different issues would be taken up with the concerned for implementation.



HC refuses to quash FIR in corruption case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K High Court dismissed a petition seeking quashment of FIR No 35/2000 for offences under Section 5(1)(c)(d) read with 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-B RPC registered at Police Station, Vigilance Organization, Kashmir.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, while dismissing petition, observed that it is clear that a party who invokes jurisdiction of the High Court for quashing of FIR and the consequent proceedings on the ground that ingredients of offence for which he has been booked, are not made out, he has to meet the test of expeditious dispatch of approaching the Court. A party cannot approach High Court under Section 482 of CrPC at his whim and caprice, merely because no period of limitation in filing petition under the aforesaid provision is provided. A petition under Section 482 of the CrPC must be filed within a reasonable time and it should not be vitiated by inordinate delay on part of the petitioner.

Court further observed that within what time a petitioner should approach the Court under Section 482 of CrPC depends upon facts and circumstances of the case. "Reasonable time generally means any time which is not manifestly unreasonable and which is fairly necessary for

approaching the Court. Reasonable time would mean a time required by a prudent litigant to approach the Court in the given facts and circumstances of the case. Analyzing the facts of the instant case in the backdrop of aforesaid legal position, it is absolutely clear that the petitioner has approached this Court at a highly belated stage after about 14 years of receiving copy of the Challan. The petitioner has actively participated in the proceedings before the trial court for all these years and has, after waking up from deep slumber, approached this Court, without any iota of explanation for the delay as per his choice, caprice and whim. Thus, it can by no stretch of imagination be stated that the petitioner has approached this Court within a reasonable time. The prosecution evidence is almost complete and now late in the day, the petitioner wants this Court to exercise its jurisdiction under Section 482 of CrPC, which, in the facts and circumstances of the case, this Court would be reluctant to do. Thus, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the submissions made by the petitioner, the instant petition is dismissed being highly belated. The petitioner is, however, at liberty to take all the contentions raised in the present petition before the court below at the time of final arguments," the Court observed.

Take concerns of people into consideration before implementing decisions of Smart City Project: Sawhney

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former MLA Jammu East Yogesh Sawhney along with his team, on Tuesday toured various areas of Ward-1, Jammu East including Dhounthly Bazaar, Panjirthi etc interacted with local shopkeepers and people. The residents apprised Sawhney of their major concerns and issues, expressing dissatisfaction with faulty implementation of Smart City Project in their area. After hearing their concerns, Sawhney contacted CEO Smart City Project to convey these issues for on-spot redressal, after which a team of Smart City Project officials was sent to the spot to look into the matter. Sawhney highlighted various issues that were bothering the people in area and urged the team that the concerns of the residents must be taken into consideration before implementing any decision related to Smart City Project.

Sawhney said that one of the major concerns of locals now was that under the Smart City Project, the administration is construct-



Former MLA, Yogesh Sawhney interacting with people.

ing a footpath which has been opposed by them as the area is already very congested. The roads are quite narrow and wide footpaths being constructed on both sides by the administration will further reduce the space for traffic movement. So, people have outright rejected construction of footpath as it will cause a lot of inconvenience to them. "We have reiterated our concerns in front of Smart City Project team and urged them to align the implementation of the project as per needs of local people," said Sawhney. The locals demanded that the construction of the footpath be stopped immediately and said that if the administration does not pay

attention to their concerns, they would shutdown their shops and stage a Dharna.

Other senior leaders who accompanied Yogesh Sawhney included Dr Ramakant Khajuria, Pawandeve Singh, Chander Shekhar Sharma, Atul Sharma, Ram Sarup Baru, Raj Singh, Vijay Kumar, Tarun Gandotra, Gulshan Kumar, Sanjay Jain, Shatrughan Jamwal, Darminder, Ravi Kant, Ashwani Kumar, Rajesh Behl, Mahaldar (Bittu) Phatey Singh, Vijay Kumar, Harbans Lal, Manhor Lal, Sanjay Kumar, Arif Malik, Sahil Dogra, Raman Bali, Ashok Khajuria, Subash Khajuria and Brij Lal.

Training workshop on 'Addressing Child Centric Vulnerability, Enhancing Capacity & Promoting Resilience' gets underway

Resource persons suggest ways for parents, caregivers to help children cope with disasters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The second day of the five-day workshop for teachers of Jammu Division on 'Addressing Child Centric Vulnerability, enhancing capacity and promoting Resilience amid disasters', on Tuesday started at Teacher Bhawan Gandhi Nagar Jammu with a feedback session with the participants about the sessions of the first day of the programme.

Five-day workshop is being organized jointly by State Council of Educational Research and Training Jammu, in collaboration with National Institute of Disaster Management CCDRR centre.

On the second day, the first session was delivered by Ranjan Kumar on the topic



Joint Director, H.R Pakhroo speaking at a workshop in Jammu.

'Understanding vulnerabilities of children in disaster and emergencies'.

The resource person also shared the statistics of the disasters that had happened in the past.

The second session was taken by Dr. Abhishek Chowhan on the topic 'Mental health in disasters and emergencies'. He discussed in

detail the impacts of disasters upon the mental health of the children and various types of disorders that emerge among the children due to disasters. He also suggested ways for parents and caregivers which can help the children cope with disasters. The information provided was extremely relevant to the title of the programme and it was an inter-

active and interesting session.

Joint Director, H.R Pakhroo also briefed various case studies regarding human obsessions during the session.

The third session was based on the topic 'Impact of disasters and emergencies on children: Case studies', delivered by Dr. Kumar Raka. He

shared the statistical data of the number of children affected due to various types of disasters in the past.

Case studies in this regard were shared with the participants, and models of disaster risk reduction were also explained by Dr. Kumar Raka.

The fourth session 'Reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing capacities of children: Group exercise' by Dr. Kumar Raka included ice-breaking exercises for the participants in order to enhance their active participation.

Groups of the participants were formed for the third day exercises, to be taken by the participants during the field visit.

After 8 years of trial, accused of rash-driving awarded rigorous imprisonment of three years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sub-Judge Katra Manoj Parihar convicted accused Sohan Singh @ Som, son of Jagdish Singh, resident of Kundroorian, Katra, District Reasi in a case involving offences for causing death by rash and negligent driving and endangering human life and awarded three years imprisonment. Accused allegedly caused death of 5 passengers while driving a mini-bus in a rash and negligent manner.

As per details, on December 10, 2014 at 3:30 PM a report was received from reliable sources that a mini-bus bearing registration no 5512/JK02R, driven rashly and negligently, met with an accident at Balini near railway bridge Katra, as the failed to control the vehicle and it fell down 50-60 mtr from road in Balini Nallah. 15-20 passengers in the vehicle got injured, out of which 5 passengers died. Sub-Judge Katra Manoj Parihar after hearing APP Joginder Kumar for UT whereas Adv Parvesh Kant for the accused person observed that in light of evidence so produced by the

prosecution and documents that accused was negligent in driving the vehicle. "The accused acted without consciousness while using phone and taking the vehicle towards wrong side and causing an accident. He was acting without consciousness that illegal and mischievous effect will follow and he had not taken/exercised the due caution incumbent upon him and if he had he would have had the consequences. The negligence driving by the accused is a breach of duty imposed by law upon him. As he being driver of passenger vehicle was required to be more careful than others. Although there are some evidences that the road was on slope and there were pits, but that would not absolve the accused not to keep safety of movement of vehicle. Had he not taken the vehicle/matador towards wrong, the accident would not have happened. These circumstances are sufficient to draw an inference that the accused was guilty of rashness and negligence in driving," the Court observed and awarded 3 years imprisonment to accused.

Chief Secretary takes stock of ongoing Amarnath Yatra

Impresses upon concerned to follow all SOPs during inclement weather conditions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday chaired a meeting of officers from Civil and Police administration for first hand appraisal from the officers for the smooth conduct of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra 2022.

Principal Secretary Health and Medical Education Department, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Inspector General of Police Kashmir, Secretary Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Principal Government Medical College Srinagar, Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police, Ganderbal/Anantnag, Director Health Services Kashmir and other concerned attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

While enquiring about the arrangements being put in place for pilgrims after the Yatra was suspended on both the routes due to inclement weather, Dr Mehta impressed upon the concerned officers that all the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be



CS, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting.

followed.

On the occasion, he enquired about the arrangements and other back up plans during the inclement weather conditions.

He directed all the concerned to avoid unnecessary chaos and review the holding capacities of Yatrics at the lodgements along the twin Amarnath Cave routes. On the occasion, the Chief Secretary also instructed the officers to ensure cleanliness of tracks so that pilgrims would not face any inconvenience during their pilgrimage.

He also directed the health department to ensure round the clock health care facilities along both the tracks to tackle high altitude related problems being faced by yatrics. While following protocols, all necessary arrangements to be put in

place to immediately shift the yatrics facing acute problems.

While discussing the traffic management along the National highway and along the Yatra routes of Baltal and Pahalgam, Dr Mehta directed the Traffic Police to facilitate movements of perishable items, tourists and people alike.

He also maintained that the traffic advisory issued by the Traffic Department must be adhered to so that people do not face any inconvenience. While complimenting the Civil and Police administration for the smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra so far, the Chief Secretary assured that all the necessary support would be extended to them for the successful conduct of Amarnath Yatra 2022.

Drowning deaths on rise, authorities resorting to ban swimming in dangerous water-bodies in Valley

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Although last month, Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir recorded an unusual drop in mercury, but during last week of month people were seen grappling with unusual heat wave. The mercury has touched 34.2 degree celsius which was highest temperature in the month of June after 12 years while night temperature was also recorded 6.3 degree celsius above normal. The soaring mercury made Kashmiris to explore options to beat the scorching heat. Like every summer, people including youth and teenagers are reaching various water-bodies for swimming amid soaring heat, which has also led to an increase in deaths by drowning across Kashmir. As per locals and authorities of various districts in Kashmir, unsafe and unchecked swimming practices lead to loss of precious lives every year.

As STATE TIMES went through various reports of deaths related to drowning, it found out that maximum deaths were reported last month, with most of them directly related to unsafe

swimming practices. 7 youth including minors and teenagers drown in first week of July. In one recent incident, on July 4, 14-year-old Asrar Ahmad Dar drowned in Soaitang Lasjan area of Srinagar while bathing in river Jehlum. Same day in another incident, another young boy identified as Suhail Ahmad Bhat drowned in Nanlam waterfall in Sheeri, Baramulla and his body was recovered on July 5. Another 3 minor were almost at the verge of drowning in North Kashmir while bathing, but were fortunately saved by efforts of people.

Experts believe that unchecked swimming practices, lack of proper swimming training and rescue measures lead to rise in deaths by drowning every year. They further said that there are no rescue teams deployed around water bodies in Kashmir. "In these incidents, only 10 percent of people are saved and 90 percent lose their lives. This year around 17 people drowned in Kashmir while only three could be saved, which tells a lot about our swimming and

rescue scenario. Kashmir is a place full of water-bodies and if you compare the people with swimming and rescue training, it is barely 5 per cent. In Delhi where there are negligible water-bodies as compared to Kashmir, over 35 per cent people know swimming and rescue skills," experts told. In Kashmir, much more water sports centers should be opened to train people. "At times people who go to rescue others, end up losing their own lives due to lack of proper training. There is also a need for more rescue squads around water-bodies so that precious lives can be saved," said experts, adding that immediate intervention by Government and public awareness can help in improving the swimming and rescue scenario in Kashmir. It will not only help in saving lives but will also contribute in enhancing water-sports activities in Kashmir. With increasing drowning deaths, the administration at some places has resorted to ban swimming practices in dangerous water-bodies in Kashmir:

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Chairman of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), on Tuesday announced the setting up of "Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award" in public administration in the field of academic excellence, in memory of the first President of India who had also laid the foundation stone of the IIPA building complex in the national capital.

While presiding over the 320th meeting of the Executive Council of IIPA, Dr Jitendra Singh congratulated the Director General and staff of IIPA for receiving the ISO 9001:2015



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, as Chairman of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), presiding over the 320th meeting of the Executive Council, at IIPA Headquarters, New Delhi on Tuesday.

certification and said, this speaks volume of the excellent work being done by this premier training institution of the Government of India.

The Union Minister also suggested a one-day visit of the Assistant Secretaries to the Government of India, to the Indian Institute of Public Administration to have a firsthand understanding of the training programmes being undertaken by it. He also opined that visits of the officers of friendly neighbouring countries like

Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka etc to IIPA should also be organized.

The Union Minister said that the institute has to have a futuristic vision for the next 25 years to attain the goals set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and, to achieve this, the institute needs to have an integrated approach to work in cohesion with similar departments/organizations/set-ups and entities with similar scope and focus, related to training, administrative expertise. The Minister said that

IIPA has the capacity and it needs to continue performing by having an enlarged pool of experts and a wide spectrum of activities.

Dr. Jitendra expressed satisfaction on the enthusiastic number of serving and former civil servants and eminent academicians taking membership of the IIPA. The Minister appreciated the work done by IIPA, including conducting 75 training programmes in 2021-22 and 20 in period from April-June, 2022. IIPA also trained 12,795 partici-

pants in 2021-22 and 542 so far from April- to June, 2022. It also organized 75 online training programs in 2021-22 and 05 in the first quarter of 2022-23.

The Minister was apprised of the action taken on the minutes of the 319th Meeting of the EC held on 27th September, 2021.

The IIPA's Executive Council has the Hon'ble Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu as its President and Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, as chairman.

The meeting was attended by members of IIPA's Executive Council, including, Shri Shekhar Dutt, former Governor, Chhattisgarh, Srinivas R. Katikithala, Director, LBSNAA, GP Prasain, GR Kurup, KK Pandey, along with Surendra Nath Tripathi, DG, IIPA and Member-Secretary, EC and Shri Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar, IIPA. Several regional branches also attended the meeting virtually.